

STATE NATURE RESOURCES
CHECK NO. 4
DATE 2-9-07
BILL NO. SB 337



CASCADE COUNTY

February 9, 2007

Sen. David Wanzenried
Via FAX 406-444-4875

RE: Support for SB 337

Dear Senator Wanzenried,

Thanks you for being an advocate for Community based wind development in Montana. As you know, Montana hosts two large scale wind developments, the 130 MW park at Judith Gap and the 9 MW park adjacent to the Great Falls International Airport. The former project is out of state investor owned, with the federal tax credits benefiting said company. The latter project is a community scale project, owned by a Montana business, that has captured the federal tax credits, and added revenues.

Small scale projects are good for Montana. The cost of the project is within reach of people living within our communities. A host of benefits can be captured by these Montanans. In the case of the United Materials wind park, the company has become more efficient as a result of adding the wind part to its company mix. That is good news for our community because United Materials is our 24th largest taxpayer and employs 125 people. Additionally, the dispersal of small wind projects across Montana creates a natural firming scenario that policy should encourage.

You and your colleagues have an opportunity to clear a path for small scale community based wind projects in Montana by supporting all measures that promote this dynamic. I encourage passage of SB 337 to allow the Green Electricity Buying Cooperative to advance its \$31.7 million projects.

Sincerely,

Peggy Beltrone

Peggy Beltrone, Commissioner
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